

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound having the general formula (I)
 $M_5(AO_4)_3X$,
wherein
M represents Ba, Sr, Ca or a mixture thereof;
A represents P, V or a mixture thereof; and
wherein the group $M_5(AO_4)_3$ forms an apatite structure and X is situated in the hexagonal channels of the apatite structure and includes Cu-atoms, with the proviso that the compound is not $Sr_5(VO_4)_3(CuO)$, $Sr_5(VO_4)_3(Cu_{0.894}O_{0.952})$, or $(Sr_{0.9}Ca_{0.1})_5(Cr^VO_4)_3(CuO)$.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein X further represents a certain fraction of Cu^{2+} , and/or Cu^+ , and O^{2-} ions mixed with anions such as OH^- , F^- , Cl^- , Br^- and/or I^- .
4. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X comprises copper ions.
5. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein X comprises Cu^{2+} .
6. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein linear units O-Cu-O are present in the hexagonal channels of the apatite structure.
7. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein X represents $Cu_xO_yH_z$, wherein $0 < x \leq 0.85$, $0 \leq z < 1$ and $0.5 < y \leq 1$.

8. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 7, wherein $0.1 \leq x \leq 0.6$.
9. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein A represents P.
- 10-14. (Cancelled)
15. (Previously Presented) The process for preparing a compound of claim 1 comprising the steps
 - (i) mixing of carbonates of M, Cu-compounds, and $(\text{NH}_4)\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$ or a V-compound or mixtures thereof,
 - (ii) thermal treatment of this mixture in solid state in air at 600 to 850°C for 1 to 5 hours,
 - (iii) regrinding,
 - (iv) thermal treatment in air at 1100 to 1400°C for about 1 to 24 hours,
 - (v) air quenching and
 - (vi) regrinding.
16. (Previously Presented) Pigment comprising a compound of claim 1.
17. (Previously Presented) Pigment according to claim 16, wherein X in the compound of general formula (I) comprises Cu^{2+} .
18. (Previously Presented) A method of coloring a material comprising adding the pigment of claim 16 to the material.
- 19-20. (Cancelled)